

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

GEOTAG, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

2:10-CV-573

RENT-A-CENTER, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

**DEFENDANTS AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. AND
AVIS RENT A CAR SYSTEM, LLC'S ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS
TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and Avis Rent A Car System, LLC (collectively, "Avis") file this Answer and Counterclaims to Plaintiff GeoTag, Inc.'s ("GeoTag") Complaint for Patent Infringement (Dkt. No. 1) ("Complaint") as follows:

PARTIES

1. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 1 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

2. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 2 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

3. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 3 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

4. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 4 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

5. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 5 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

6. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 6 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

7. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 7 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

8. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 8 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

9. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 9 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

10. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 10 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

11. Avis Budget Group, Inc. admits that it has a place of business in Parsippany, New Jersey.

12. Avis Rent A Car System, LLC admits that it has a place of business in Parsippany, New Jersey. Avis acknowledges that the Complaint collectively refers to Avis Budget Group, Inc. and Avis Rent A Car System, LLC as “Avis Budget.”

13. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 13 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

14. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 14 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

15. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 15 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

16. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 16 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

17. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 17 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

18. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 18 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

19. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 19 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

20. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 20 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

21. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 21 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

22. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 22 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

23. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 23 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

24. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 24 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

25. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 25 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

26. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 26 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

27. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 27 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

28. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 28 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

29. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 29 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

30. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 30 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

31. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 31 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

32. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 32 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

33. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 33 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

34. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 34 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

35. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 35 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

36. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 36 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

37. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 37 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

38. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 38 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

39. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 39 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

40. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 40 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

41. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 41 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

42. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 42 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

43. To the extent that the allegations in paragraph 43 of the Complaint are directed against Avis, Avis admits that the Complaint alleges an action for patent infringement pursuant to Title 35 of the United States Code. Avis further admits that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action. Avis does not contest personal jurisdiction over Avis by this Court and further admits that Avis has conducted businesses within this Judicial District and/or the state of Texas. Avis denies that it has committed any acts of infringement in this Judicial District and further denies that its websites comprise “infringing methods and apparatuses.” Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 43 (including those alleged as to any other party) and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

44. To the extent that the allegations in paragraph 44 of the Complaint are directed against Avis, Avis denies that venue is convenient in this Judicial District as to Avis but does not contest venue over Avis in this Judicial District. Avis does not contest personal jurisdiction over Avis by this Court and further admits that Avis has conducted businesses within this Judicial

District and/or the state of Texas. Avis denies that it has committed any acts of infringement in this Judicial District and further denies that its websites comprise “infringing methods and apparatuses.” Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 44 (including those alleged as to any other party) and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

45. To the extent that the allegations in paragraph 45 of the Complaint are directed against Avis, Avis denies that venue is convenient in this Judicial District as to Avis but does not contest venue over Avis in this Judicial District. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 45 (including those alleged as to any other party) and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

COUNT I

[ALLEGED] INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT 5,930,474

46. Avis admits that U.S. Patent No. 5,930,474 (“the ‘474 Patent”) is entitled “Internet Organizer for Accessing Geographically and Topically Based Information” and on its face indicates that it issued on July 29, 1999. Avis denies that the ‘474 Patent was duly and legally issued.

47. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 47 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

48. Because the claims of the ‘474 Patent have not yet been construed in this case, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 48 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

49. To the extent that the allegations in paragraph 49 of the Complaint are directed against Avis, Avis denies the allegations of paragraph 49 of the Complaint. Avis has not and

does not currently infringe any valid claim of the '474 Patent. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 49 (including those alleged as to any other party) and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

50. Paragraph 50 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 50 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 50 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

51. Paragraph 51 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 51 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 51 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

52. Paragraph 52 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 52 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 52 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

53. Paragraph 53 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 53 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 53 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

54. Paragraph 54 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 54 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 54 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

55. Paragraph 55 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 55 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 55 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

56. Paragraph 56 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 56 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 56 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

57. Avis denies the allegations of paragraph 57 of the Complaint.

58. Paragraph 58 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 58 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 58 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

59. Paragraph 59 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 59 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 59 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

60. Paragraph 60 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 60 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 60 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

61. Paragraph 61 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 61 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information

sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 61 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

62. Paragraph 62 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 62 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 62 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

63. Paragraph 63 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 63 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 63 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

64. Paragraph 64 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 64 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 64 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

65. Paragraph 65 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 65 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 65 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

66. Paragraph 66 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 66 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 66 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

67. Paragraph 67 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 67 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 67 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

68. Paragraph 68 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 68 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 68 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

69. Paragraph 69 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 69 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 69 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

70. Paragraph 70 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 70 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 70 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

71. Paragraph 71 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 71 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 71 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

72. Paragraph 72 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 72 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information

sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 72 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

73. Paragraph 73 of the Complaint does not require a response by Avis. To the extent that paragraph 73 is deemed to require a response, Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of paragraph 73 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

74. Paragraph 74 of the Complaint fails to state a claim for willful infringement on which relief may be granted. To the extent that paragraph 74 is deemed to require a response and to the extent that the allegations in paragraph 74 of the Complaint are directed against Avis, Avis denies the allegations of paragraph 74 of the Complaint. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 74 (including those alleged as to any other party) and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

75. To the extent that the allegations in paragraph 75 of the Complaint are directed against Avis, Avis denies the allegations of paragraph 75 of the Complaint. Avis is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 75 (including those alleged as to any other party) and, on that basis, denies all such allegations

PRAYER FOR [ALLEGED] RELIEF

76. Avis denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief from Avis and denies all of the allegations directed towards Avis contained in paragraphs “1.” through “6.” of Plaintiff’s Prayer for Relief. To the extent that the allegations in paragraphs “1.” through “6.” of Plaintiff’s Prayer for Relief are directed against defendants other than Avis, Avis is without knowledge or

information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

77. Avis admits that the Complaint sets forth a request for trial by jury.

78. To the extent that any allegations of the Complaint have not been previously specifically admitted or denied, Avis denies them.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Avis' Affirmative Defenses are listed below. Avis reserves the right to amend its Answer to add additional Affirmative Defenses, including allegations of inequitable conduct, consistent with the facts discovered in the case.

FIRST DEFENSE

1. Avis does not and has not infringed, under any theory of infringement (including directly (whether individually or jointly) or indirectly (whether contributorily or by inducement)), any valid, enforceable claim of the '474 Patent.

SECOND DEFENSE

2. Each asserted claim of the '474 Patent is invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the requirements of United States Code, Title 35, including without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112, and the rules, regulations, and laws pertaining thereto.

THIRD DEFENSE

3. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part based on prosecution history estoppel and/or prosecution history disclaimer.

FOURTH DEFENSE

4. To the extent that Plaintiff and alleged predecessors in interest to the '474 Patent failed to properly mark any of their relevant products as required by 35 U.S.C. § 287 or otherwise give proper notice that Avis' actions allegedly infringed the '474 Patent, Avis is not liable to Plaintiff for the acts alleged to have been performed before it received actual notice that it was allegedly infringing the '474 Patent.

FIFTH DEFENSE

5. To the extent that Plaintiff asserts that Avis indirectly infringes, either by contributory infringement or inducement of infringement, Avis is not liable to Plaintiff for the acts alleged to have been performed before Avis knew that its actions would cause indirect infringement.

SIXTH DEFENSE

6. Plaintiff's attempted enforcement of the '474 Patent against Avis is barred by laches and estoppel.

SEVENTH DEFENSE

7. The claims of the '474 Patent are not entitled to a scope sufficient to encompass any system employed or process practiced by Avis.

EIGHTH DEFENSE

8. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

COUNTERCLAIMS

PARTIES

1. Counterclaim Plaintiff Avis Budget Group, Inc. is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Parsippany, New Jersey.

2. Counterclaim Plaintiff Avis Rent A Car System, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company, with its principal place of business in Parsippany, New Jersey. Hereafter, Avis Budget Group, Inc. and Avis Rent A Car System, LLC shall be referred to as "Avis."

3. On information and belief based solely on Paragraph 1 of the Complaint as pled by Plaintiff, Counterclaim Defendant GeoTag, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation, with its principal place of business located in Plano, Texas.

JURISDICTION

4. This counterclaim arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35, United States Code. The jurisdiction of this Court is proper under at least 35 U.S.C. § 271 et seq., and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 1367, and 2201-02.

5. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to at least 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400. Venue is further proper in the Marshall Division.

COUNT I

DECLARATION REGARDING NON-INFRINGEMENT

6. Based on Plaintiff's filing of this action and Avis' First Defense, an actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties as to whether Avis infringes the '474 Patent.

7. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §2201 et seq., Avis requests a declaration by the Court that it does not infringe any claim of the '474 Patent under

any theory (including directly (whether individually or jointly) or indirectly (whether contributorily or by inducement)).

COUNT II

DECLARATION REGARDING INVALIDITY

8. Based on Plaintiff's filing of this action and Avis' Second Defense, an actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties as to the validity of the claims of the '474 Patent.

9. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §2201 *et seq.*, and 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et seq.*, Avis requests a declaration by the Court that the claims of the '474 Patent are invalid.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Avis asks this Court to enter judgment in Avis's favor and against Plaintiff GeoTag by granting the following relief:

- a) a declaration that the asserted claims of the '474 Patent are invalid;
- b) a declaration that Avis does not infringe, under any theory, any valid claim of the '474 Patent that may be enforceable;
- c) a declaration that GeoTag take nothing by its Complaint;
- d) judgment against GeoTag and in favor of Avis;
- e) dismissal of the Complaint with prejudice;
- f) an award to Avis of its costs and attorneys' fees incurred in this action; and
- g) further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Avis hereby demands trial by jury on all issues.

Dated: March 16, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

/s/ Neil J. McNabnay

Neil J. McNabnay

Texas Bar No. 24002583

mcnabnay@fr.com

Michael A. Bittner

Texas Bar No. 24064905

bittner@fr.com

1717 Main Street, Suite 5000

Dallas, TX 75201

(214) 747-5070 (Telephone)

(214) 747-2091 (Telecopy)

**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS
AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. and AVIS
RENT A CAR SYSTEM, LLC**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document has been served on March 16, 2011, to all counsel of record who are deemed to have consented to electronic service via the Court's CM/ECF system per Local Rule CV-5(a)(3).

/s/ Neil J. McNabnay

Neil J. McNabnay